

CARDIFF CITY FOOTBALL CLUB



Division 2
v. BOLTON WANDERERS

SATURDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 1980

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

Official Programme 30p



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● Michelle Powell, who is now in charge of our club shop, amidst the wide range of souvenirs now available at the stadium on match days and during the week.

Photo: Glyn Paul

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- Welsh League Champions— 1966-67 1967-68 1969-70 1971-72
- Football League Cup Semi-finalists — 1965-66
- European Cup Winners' Cup Semi-finalists — 1967-68

Programme Editor
RON JONES

Ninian NEWS DESK

SEPTEMBER 13, 1980

Bluebirds Journal No. 4

My business suit is coming off (part of the time that is!) and my track suit going on. Richie Morgan and Brian Harris have asked me to hold regular sprint training sessions with the players once the mid-week programme of matches slims down.

Billy Ronson has taken the demand one step further. He wants the sprint work to be done on the athletics track at Maindy Stadium rather than around the Ninian Park pitch. "If you think I'm quick in games, just watch me go on a proper track," he threatens.

I'm delighted to take on all challenges but I wouldn't care to back myself too strongly these days. It's been a few years since I won the last of my 13 Welsh sprint titles at Maindy. I'll be interested to hear from supporters about which player they believe to be the quickest over 30-40 yards. I'll give my answer after the first full scale work-outs.

Not, of course, that we will be using Maindy to settle individual challenges. The real point as far as Richie and Brian are concerned is to make use of the sprint knowledge I gained from international athletics in relation to professional footballers.

I noticed a national newspaper ran a list of 'put down' quotes the other day . . . or 'squelch' remarks as they have become known. John Lewis has won a place in my personal collection.

I always rated the repartee of Stan Bowles highly when I knew him from our days at Queen's Park Rangers but John murdered him during our win here over Orient. After one brush, Stan threatened: "I'll knock out those few teeth you've got left".

Undismayed by this fairly inaccurate description (it is only a small gap in the front), John flashed back: "I've still got enough left to bite off your leg!" Exit Stan Bowles stage left.

We have our problems here but I must admit to a warm feeling when we held Chelsea at Stamford Bridge and advanced into the third round of the League Cup. I rate that as just about my most enjoyable moment since I joined this club — and an aggregate victory that will do us a great deal of good.

It was my first trip back to London since becoming general manager here and to a club where I had hardly ever known a success during my spell at Q.P.R. So when Peter Kitchen rapped home that equalising goal to give us victory, I felt that it was a moment when the tide turned.

That applies from the club's point of view just as much as from my personal pleasure. We are now the only Welsh club left in the League Cup and there is strong feeling among the players that we can push further ahead by winning at Barnsley.

On a far less stimulating note supporters will see that our main action picture in today's programme has reverted to black and white. We hope that this is a temporary step but it is one forced upon us by depressing attendances this season.

We want to give supporters the best programme in the League and we believe that we are on the way to doing so. But the fact remains that current sales, reflected by low gates, will not support the massive cost of colour printing. It is a great shame that we have had to take this step after the 4-2 win against Orient which proved one of the most exciting matches here for a very long time.

RICHIE MORGAN'S VERDICT



One month of the season gone already! It is hardly a time for stocktaking — but I feel far happier about the prospects for the next eight months than I did at this time last year. Genuine progress is now being made at this club.

At first team level, we are looking far more purposeful and producing clear cut scoring chances: from the reserve sides, young players are now starting to challenge with exciting possibilities of making the breakthrough into League football.

Statistically, we are about on course with this time last year . . . but statistics have no significance at this point of the season. Cardiff City, in 16th place, are two points behind West Ham in fourth!

After the goal-rich entertainment of our win over Orient, it was a disappointment to go down so narrowly at Newcastle. Two factors contributed to that defeat: some debatable refereeing decisions—particularly when United scored both their first half goals — and three open goal chances thrown away.

Early in the first half, Ray Bishop hit the post from point blank range; in the second, John

Buchanan fired wide from a few yards out and Gary Stevens mis-headed with all the goal in front of him. In all three cases, they were the kind of openings from which you would expect these players to score 99 times out of a hundred.

The point, however, was that we had split Newcastle's defence into tatters to create the time and space . . . and I am not talking about half chances. From all three, we should have scored to beat Newcastle as convincingly as we beat Orient.

Peter Kitchen found the net for the second consecutive match and he is now settling down with exceptional promise. He was the outstanding player on the pitch at St. James Park and the newspapers gave him (and the entire side for their second half display) full credit.

Our form at the moment gives us an outstanding opportunity to climb the table and make progress in the Football League Cup. I know that there was some disappointment that we had not drawn a top club at home in the third round of the Cup — but we feel that we can win at Barnsley and give Ninian Park an early taste of Cup football excitement.

Steve successful at full-back

The harder the tackle, the less it hurts. That is lesson number one for Steve Grapes in his successful conversion into a full back. "When I played as a winger or in midfield, I used to go in with my leg dangling—then a collision DID hurt. Now I do the job properly and it doesn't," he says.

"Of all the changes in taking over as a full back, this is the one thing that continues to amaze me. I'd always been told this but never really believed it. Now I find it to be absolutely true.

"I am actually enjoying the physical aspect of defensive play and a lot of this is down to the fact that I've been working hard on learning to tackle properly.

Richie Morgan and Brian Harris have concentrated on this side of my game and it is really paying off."

Steve feels now that his career is settling down as a right back. "Richie seems sure about this—and with everything going so well for me now, who am I to argue?

"I did play full back once before. That was for Norwich City reserves and I hated it. My whole game then was based on going forward and I felt shackled by the role: now I see it very differently. I've quickly come to appreciate the opportunities that the job offers.

"Firstly, there is the pleasure of tackling properly; secondly, the chance to attack almost as

much as I ever did as a midfield player — and with the added advantage of being able to see the whole game in front of me. That's brilliant!

"As a midfield player, and particularly at the front, there was always a large element of having your back to the game. Now the whole situation is reversed and that has helped me to become more effective in an attacking sense as well as a defender."

Steve collected his first full back 'trademark' against Chelsea: a black eye from Mike Fillery. "That's the first of the facial wounds that I've always understood to be part of a defender's expectations," he jokes.

Seeing football my way

by Brian Harris

The Wales squad this season will not be the exclusive property of Swansea City — no matter what impression our supporters might have gained from the media! Frankly, I'm getting a bit weary of reading about the claims of this Swansea player or the qualities of that Swansea player.

It's time to beat the drum on behalf of Cardiff City's players and, at this moment, three in particular — John Lewis, Keith Pontin and Ray Bishop.

All along I have argued the case for John to be a full back. A lot of expert opinion felt that he could adapt his pace and skill to become an exciting front player in the style of Alan Curtis. I have maintained that there was an ever better future for him at left back and I'm not ashamed to say that I'm being proved right.

John possesses the great gift of being able to sweep past defenders. His changes of pace are devastating and his close control excellent. Operating from full back, he has that freedom that would be denied to him up front.

As a winger, for instance, he would be tight-marked: as a full back, there is always space available for him to break into —

and he is doing it more effectively all the time.

The retirement of David Jones leaves the Wales centre half position up for grabs. No one has a finer chance than Keith who, of course, played his first games for Wales during the British Championship last season. If he is cut during a City match, physiotherapist Tudor Jones swears that the blood is blue . . . because that he is the way he feels about this club.

I'm sure that the blood turns to red when he wears the shirt of Wales — not because that is normal but because he wants to be a winner just as much in international football. That is Keith through and through: a man who has to win.

Ray is an international in the making. He has that priceless asset of pace and is improving rapidly. As he comes to terms with the professional game, his chances of catching the notice of Mike England will improve month by month.

While I'm on the subject of Cardiff City and Wales, don't forget that striker Tarki Micallef and defender Linden Jones were both in the Under-21 squad. We're doing our share for Wales—as we have always done!



Bluebirds Club Trip to ATV

from manager Norman Leworthy

We had a marvellous trip to Birmingham for A.T.V's 'Up for the Cup' programme. We filled a coach with supporters — and my thanks to Roy and Mair Daniels of Adar Glas Caerdydd S.C. for their help — to back our four variety acts against those representing Charlton.

A panel which included Andy Gray, Trevor Francis, John Deehan and Gary Thompson shaded the verdict Charlton's

way but I'm sure everyone enjoyed the programme, put out last weekend, which was compered by David Hamilton.

All four of the acts which represented City in this competition can be seen regularly at the BLUEBIRDS CLUB.

The club is available for all functions such as your Engagement Party, Wedding Reception or Office Party. Contact me for details.

★ Player Spot

So near for two goal Gary

Gary Stevens came within inches of his first Second Division hat-trick against Orient in City's last home game. Those arms raised in disappointment after he had headed inches wide must have told their own story to supporters around Ninian Park . . . or did they?

"Disappointment at not scoring — yes: disappointment at missing a hat-trick—not really," says Gary. "My first thought was 'If I had scored then, the game would have been out of Orient's reach'. We would have been 5-2 ahead and completely in the clear.

"It wasn't until afterwards I thought 'Heck' that would have been my first hat-trick for the club'.

"Strangely, I would have done better if I had been under pressure. I had too much time to think about it. If I had headed directly for goal, as I would have done if I had been challenged, it would probably have been good enough.

"John Lewis had made one run, seen his centre rebound out and then tried again. Mervyn Day had come near post to counter John's first run; then gone back to his far post in anticipation of the second attack. My aim as John's cross reached me was to put the ball into the spot Mervyn had just left.

Gary's point is that gestures on the field do not always mean what they might seem. Many supporters thought that his signals after his second goal indicated that the ball had come off his shoulder but, again, that is not quite true. "I was re-assuring anxious teammates that I hadn't handled the ball and was showing them the spot where I made contact with the ball!"

That 4-2 win over Orient was City's first four goal scoreline since the win here over Sheffield United at the end of the season before last. Now there is real excitement that the Gary Stevens-Peter Kitchen-Ray Bishop strike force will bring a new era of goalscoring prosperity to the club.

"I'm sure that it will work out well," forecasts Gary. "After playing with Ronnie Moore for so long, I've now got to alter my style and perhaps work a little harder to operate effectively with Peter. He attacks in a totally different way to Ronnie.

"On the other hand, if I try to make runs to help him, there is the danger of me getting in his way. It is a partnership that is going to take time to work out but we are certainly putting our heads together. We are determined to make it a success. Peter's pace and quickness on the turn will bring him some exciting goals.

Shrewdly, Gary sees one benefit immediately at hand from the arrival of the former Orient match-winner. "Sides coming here will have a busier time in defence and that can only mean better, brighter football for our supporters.

"In the past because we were not scoring often enough, visiting teams could afford to push forwards more freely. Those days are gone. We intend to prove that we are a 'handful' on our own pitch."

Photo: Glyn Paul



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21 Pontoon £100

Mrs. M. Barter, 34 Snowden Road, Ely, Cardiff.

777 Bandit £100

Mrs. F. Dite, 217 Corporation Road, Grangetown,
Cardiff.

£50 Bottom Full House

Linda Walters, 29 Chichester Road, Penarth, South
Glamorgan.

Walter Upham, 2 Channel View, Pontyminster,
Risca.

From the General Manager's desk

"MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND" that's how the song goes and it's also true that money is also the key to the success of a football club.

Without a good financial base, there is no way that we can expect to be a good Second Division Club, let alone get into — and stay in — the First! A good financial base means that the club should be self-supporting.

There are three main sources of income in football clubs — match-day receipts, the commercial activities of the club, and the buying and selling of players.

It's **probable** that only two clubs in the League could survive on gates alone — Manchester United and Liverpool — and with gates like the 5,671 that watched us beat Orient convincingly, it's obvious that at the City, we can't rely on attendances. So we have to rely on the commercial side of the club to keep us afloat. The commercial department includes stadium advertising, the match-day programme, stadium catering and the lotteries and the club shop.

You will notice lots of new signs going up around the edge of the pitch — improving the income, and the look, of the stadium. The match-day programme you are very familiar with by now — although it's difficult to maintain a good programme, in colour, with a minimum of advertising—without losing a lot of money!

Ground catering is not very profitable to the Club. The lotteries are beginning to improve—but the current economic climate doesn't help us much there.

But no matter how well we develop the commercial side of the Club, it is a successful team that will provide the most money. Winning is all-important. It has a direct effect on the attendances — although I have yet to be convinced that the improvement in gates if the team is winning, is as great as some people suggest. Success increases the value of the players in the transfer market, but there is no future in having to sell your best players — only to have to spend the money buying new ones. What, then, is the answer? I think that the greatest contribution, both in terms of success

and financially, lies in the development of the Club's young players.

Recently, my former club, Q.P.R., sold two players, Clive Allen and Paul Goddard, for two million pounds. Both were home-grown youngsters who had been brought to the club as school-boys, and then coached and encouraged to be the great players they are today.

As the premier Club in Wales, we have a duty to assist in the development of young Welsh players. There must be a tremendous untapped source of young talent in Wales. We are going to start a vigorous search for these kids. The future of Cardiff City depends upon us finding them.



• RON JONES

IN OFF THE POST



St. John's Drive, Ton Pentre, Rhondda,
Dear Sir, Mid Glam.

The programme makes good reading with some very good articles and it's nice to see a "Competition Corner" once more. I also like the "Season's Facts" page and I hope the Combination results will be printed in the appropriate column.

The one major fault which has been missing for a number of years now is the lack of statistical information of previous encounters between City and their opposition. What I would like to see is how the results stand between the two clubs over the years.

However, all in all the new programme is a much brighter, better and more modern production..

On a more personal note I wish you success in your new appointment. I hope you are able help bring prosperity to the club, the public are crying out for success.

I'm 29 and have been following Cardiff since 1958 (22 years). I've only missed a handful of home games due to illness in all that time and have been a Season Ticket holder for the last 10 years or more.

Good luck,

G. PRITCHARD.

• Mr. Pritchard (sorry to be so formal but you haven't given your christian name), I take your point over statistical information re our opponents and here, perhaps, you or some other supporter could help. Records kept at Ninian Park were destroyed in a fire and we can go back only a few years. If there is a supporter with extensive records, I would be delighted to have his help in this respect.

Oxford Street,
Dear Mr. Jones, Mountain Ash
I want to write and tell you how pleased I was to see Peter Kitchen playing for us in the Orient game. He is very good in the box. I hope that he can score as many goals for us as he did for Orient.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ELLIOT (12)

• Thank you, Mark. We are very pleased that Peter has blended so quickly into the side and we ALL hope that he can score a hatful of goals for us.

Arabella Street, Roath Park,
Dear Ron, Cardiff.
I am sure that no-one was more delighted than I was to see City back in their true blue and white colours. So much have I always believed in those colours that much to the annoyance of my wife Barbara and son Andrew I refused to be parted from my old scarf when the yellow stripe was introduced. Bluebird badge yes — yellow stripes most definitely no!

I bought my blue and white scarf in 1952 and it has been through some great matches, some great seasons, has had more than one skirmish with moths and the white is definitely a bit 'off'. It's an 'old sweats' scarf and I am delighted that you have brought it back into high fashion!

Incidentally, is it the oldest scarf at Ninian?

Great start on the programme and kit Ron, keep up the good work.

best wishes,

PETER DOWN.

• I'll bet that scarf could tell a few tales, Peter. Has any other supporter got a scarf older than 1952?



Cardiff's new signing Peter Kitchen wins this goalmouth battle against Orient's 'keeper Mervyn Day.

Photo: Richard Bosworth, Hill's Welsh Press.

BOLTON WANDERERS

FACTS, FIGURES, AND PLAYERS

- Turned professional: 1880 (original member of Football League).
- Division One best seasons: 1891-92, 1920-21, 1924-25 (third each time). Division Two: champions — 1908-09, 1977-78. Runners-up — 1899-1900, 1904-5, 1910-11, 1934-35. Division Three champions — 1972-73. F.A. Cup winners 1923, 1926, 1929, 1958. Runners-up 1894, 1904, 1953. League Cup best season — semi-finalists 1976-77.
- Record victory: 13-0 v. Sheffield Utd. (F.A. Cup 1890).
- Record defeat: 0-7 v. Manchester Utd. (Division One 1936).
- Most League goals in a season: 96 (Division Two 1934-35).
- Most League points in a season: 61 (Division Three 1972-73).
- Most capped player: Nat Lofthouse 33 (England).
- Most League goals in aggregate: Lofthouse 255 (1946-61).
- Most League appearances in aggregate: Eddie Hopkinson 519 (1956-70).
- Record transfer fee paid: £350,000 for Len Cantello (to W.B.A. May 1979).
- Record transfer fee received: Jim McDonagh to Everton in June 1980 £250,000.

Bolton Wanderers, relegated last season from the First Division, have started uncertainly. There have been the signs of class such as in a 4-0 win over Newcastle but also some shaky form, particularly away from home.

Their second round clash against Crystal Palace in the League Cup confirmed the slide of Bolton from top company. Palace, currently bottom but one in the First Division, won 3-0 at Burnden Park and then wrapped up the tie with a 2-1 success on their own pitch.

In League matches, Bolton opened with a 1-2 defeat at Notts County and failed to make good this set-back when entertaining newly promoted Sheffield Wednesday in the next match. That ended 0-0 and left Bolton manager Stan Anderson looking for a convincing victory — it came in the very next match.

Wanderers hammered Newcastle 4-0 and there was a hat-trick for former England striker Brian Kidd who had been signed from Everton during the summer. He is a man who has never stopped scoring goals all his career — and his form for Bolton this season is going to be crucial.

The other new signing is Irish centre half Gerry McElhinney from Distillery.

Following that emphatic victory over Newcastle, Wanderers went down at Derby by the only goal of the game and then beat Bristol Rovers 2-0 last Saturday . . . but it was hardly a scoreline of conviction. The two goals came in the last four minutes via an Alan Gowling penalty and an Ashley Griffiths own goal.

But these are very early days and there is no doubt that manager Anderson and coach Tony Dunne are pushing through a rebuilding programme at Burnden Park. In fact, the job was started last season as Wanderers became certainties for a return to the Second Division they left as champions in 1977-78.

Young players like Mike Graham, Mike Carter, David Burke, Mike Bennett, Dave Hogan and Philip Wilson were all given first team experience. The benefits from that policy will become evident over the next couple of seasons as Bolton work for a return to the First Division.

Dunne, the former Eire and Manchester United full back, is now in a progressive partnership with Anderson who stepped up from assistant manager last season following the departure of Ian Greaves. "We aim to regain the attractive and winning style that was once our hallmark," says coach Dunne whose six year playing career at Bolton was ended by a shoulder injury.

In a club of great traditions, the First Division is the one place that matters to Bolton's supporters. As original members of the Football League, Bolton have spent most of their 100 years as a professional club operating at that level.

They had an unbroken spell there from 1911 to 1933 and another from 1935 to 1964. The one crack in their distinguished history came with a two year spell in the Third Division at the start of the last decade—but Bolton is a club of spirit as well as success.

GOALKEEPERS

TERRY POOLE — Signed from Huddersfield Town in January, 1977 for £25,000. Has made just one first team appearance in the League Cup (at Exeter in 1978).

DENNIS PEACOCK — Joined Wanderers from Doncaster last March. Born in Lincoln, he had a spell with Nottingham Forest. At 6ft. 3ins. is one of tallest keepers in the League.

DEFENDERS

DAVID BURKE — Emerged into first team at start of 1978-79 season. From Winsford, Cheshire, he made his senior debut against Chelsea in the League Cup. Can play at full back or in midfield. Exciting prospect.

DAVE CLEMENT — England international full back signed from Queen's Park Rangers for £150,000, in June 1979. Very experienced player, adding stability to the Wanderers' back line. Enjoys joining attacks.

PETER NICHOLSON — Signed from Blackpool for a small fee prior to the 1971-72 season and has proved to be a fantastic bargain. Utility player who always gives 100 per cent in either defence or midfield.

PAUL JONES — Tall, quick-tackling central defender who has been member of Under-23 and full England squads. Commanding player in the air as well as on the ground and has a habit of scoring vital goals.

MIKE WALSH — Joined Wanderers from school. Has captained the side and is equally proficient in middle of the defence, at full back or in midfield.

MIKE GRAHAM — Youngster who joined the Wanderers from school and made the breakthrough into the senior squad during 1978-79. Strong tackling full back, he looks to have a very bright future.

MICK BENNETT — Member of successful England Youth squad which won this summer's European Youth Championships in East Germany. Made League debut against Everton at Goodison Park in April and has played at full back and in midfield.

MIDFIELD

PETER REID — Joined Bolton from school. Was regular member of England Under-21 side which he also skippered. Very talented player who had the misfortune to sustain a severe knee injury which put him out of action for the second half of 78-79 season, and the first half of last season. Recovered to win back regular place.

LEN CANTELLO — Cost Wanderers record £350,000 when he signed from West Bromwich Albion in June 1979. Delights in stamping his authority on a game. Always looking for a chance to attack, he is an exciting player who quickly spots an opening.

PHIL WILSON — Made his debut at Arsenal last February — then played at Manchester United and Nottingham Forest — all in eight days! Tough, hard working player who then stayed in the side for the rest of season.

DAVID HOGGAN — Joined Bolton from Tynecastle Boys Club, Edinburgh, as an apprentice in November 1977 and signed full professional forms in August 1979. Made his League debut at Bristol City last April, shoots from any range.

FORWARDS

NEIL WHATMORE — Strong attacker with flair for scoring goals. Prolific scorer who can also play in midfield with good effect. Top scorer last season with 18 goals.

BRIAN KIDD — Member of Manchester United's European Cup winning team in 1968 and later capped twice by England. Moved to Arsenal for £110,000 in 1974 but two years later he returned to Manchester to join City for £100,000. After two seasons at Maine Road he joined Everton for £150,000 and last season was their top scorer. Has joined Bolton for £150,000.

ALAN GOWLING — Signed for £120,000 from Newcastle United three seasons ago after four years at St. James' Park. Started his career with Manchester United and then moved to Huddersfield.

TADEUSZ NOWAK — Polish winger who won international honours at every level for his country. Signed for around £50,000 just before the end of 78-79 season from Warsaw club Legia. Tall, speedy player who can play in any attacking position.

CHRIS THOMPSON — Skilful, speedy striker who joined Wanderers from school. England Youth cap who signed full professional forms in July, 1977.

MIKE CARTER — Talented striker who scores spectacular goals. Had a spell on loan with Mansfield in 1978-79 season making 18 League appearances and scoring four goals. Made his League debut for Wanderers against Bristol City in December 1979 and scored his first League goal later that month in final seconds to snatch a home point against Everton.



Back row (left to right): Mike Graham, Dave Hoggan, Terry Poole, Chris Thompson, Mike Bennett, Peter Reid.

Middle row: Tadeusz Nowak, Dave Clement, Mike Walsh, Dennis Peacock, Len Cantello, Peter Nicholson, Brian Kidd.

Front row: Alan Gowling, Phil Wilson, Dave Burke, Neil Whatmore, Mike Carter, Paul Jones.

Photo: Harry McGuire (Bolton).

BOLTON WANDERERS F.C.

SEASON 1980-81

Competition Corner

- 1) This action picture was taken from the last Cardiff City v. Bolton game at Ninian Park. Who scored and why was it a rather special result.
- 2) Which Welsh international striker held, until recently, a transfer fee record for Bolton.
- 3) Nat Lofthouse holds three Bolton records: most capped player, most League goals in total and which other?
- 4) But which scoring record does he NOT hold?
- 5) What is Bolton's club nickname?
- 6) Who was Bolton's top scorer in their 1977-78 promotion season?
- 7) And who took over that spot during their successful First Division season which followed?
- 8) That dazzling England winger Peter Thompson never left Lancashire in his three club career. Which clubs were they and in which order?
- 9) Bolton were the victims of Blackpool in that legendary Stanley Matthews Cup Final of 1953. Who scored the hat-trick in Blackpool's 4-3 win?
- 10) Which former Bolton manager will be involved in trying to win the Welsh Cup this season?



QUIZ ANSWERS — (1) The picture features Tony Evans and Sam Allardyce but it was Ray Bishop who scored in City's 1-0 win. It was a special result for City because a week later (May 3, 1978) Bolton went up as champions while City escaped relegation by a hairs breadth. (2) Wynn Davies was sold by Bolton for £85,000 to Newcastle in October, 1966. That record lasted over 12 years. (3) The only man to have managed Bolton twice since the war. (4) Most League goals in a season. That was 38 set by Joe Smith in 1921-22. (5) The Trotters. (6) Neal Whatmore with 19 League goals. (7) Frank Worthington with 24 League goals. (8) Preston, Liverpool and Bolton. (9) Stan Mortensen. (10) It's Ian Greaves. He is now at Hereford working with Frank Lord and Hereford have been re-admitted to the Welsh Cup.

City 25 years ago

After City had rounded off an uncertain start to the 1955-56 season by beating Bolton at the end of a four match August programme, they entered a busy September in better heart. Wolves were the first of three visiting clubs at Ninian Park that month and they could not have been made more welcome.

"We all remember the Wolves' previous game here, as recently as 30th April last, when we had the best exhibition of football from all of last season's home matches," happily recorded Bluebirds Journal.

The memory of that 3-2 victory which played a large part in helping to keep City in the First Division also helped to provide optimism — but everything came apart sensationally.

City lost 1-9 in a total rout and the memory of that day has never quite been erased at Ninian Park. The Wolves, of course, were a brilliant side with such great players as Bert Williams, Bill Slater, Billy Wright, Eddie Clamp, Ron Flowers, Johnny Hancocks, Peter Broadbent, Dennis Wilshaw and Jimmy Mullen — a galaxy of established internationals.

The City side which endured humiliation that day was: Howells; Sherwood, Stitfall; Harrington, Gale, Sullivan; Dixon, Kirtley, Ford, Hitchens, McSeveney.

The news was not much better looking back another 25 years. West Bromwich, who gained promotion to the First Division that 1930-31 season, were City's first visitors and left Ninian Park with a 6-3 victory. It was City's third defeat in three matches to open a new campaign.

By a quite remarkable co-incidence, however, City were involved in another 9-1 scoreline a quarter of a century before the Wolves defeat. On the same day as the first team were losing to West Bromwich, the Welsh League side were winning 9-1 in New Tredegar!

Second look...

Blackburn Rovers, who started their Second Division return by winning at Ninian Park, are now top of the table and unbeaten. They came close to stretching their lead to two points by threatening to take Derby County's unbeaten home record.

A penalty from player-manager Howard Kendall and a neat Simon Garner header gave Rovers a two goal lead at the Baseball Ground and it needed some sharp words of motivation by manager Colin Addison to save Derby.

"If we're going to lose, let's go down fighting," he snapped at his players during the interval. The former Newport manager confirmed afterwards: "Yes, I told them that they were running away from it — but they can't run away from the dressing room at a quarter to four. I gave them a roasting."

It did the trick. Alan Biley snatched two fine goals to save Derby and keep the club in second place — but Rovers are plainly back in the Second Division with a vengeance.

West Ham, the side that every other manager backs for promotion, did themselves a power of good by winning at Chelsea. As a margin of victory, a Graham Wilkins own goal was hardly outright conviction but it has nudged the stylish East London side into fourth place.

Between them and the top two are Notts County — unfancied, perhaps, but going strong. Their 2-1 victory over Queen's Park Rangers was achieved in a controversial, angry match: Rangers centre half Steve Wicks sent off and five players booked.

Swansea City shared with West Ham the distinction of being the only other two point away winners last Saturday. Leighton James scored a brilliant goal at Ashton Gate but the Swans were in a different class of skill and authority — and should have won by at least three goals.

"When we outclass sides, we have got to kill them off," said John Toshack afterwards — but two away points is a pleasant way of learning a lesson.

Bristol is a troubled football city at the moment. Rovers went down 0-2 at Bolton and are locked at the bottom of the table with City. Only goal difference separates the sides in 21st and 22nd places and they have just one League win between them — which belongs to Rovers!

CITY-STATISTIC

MILESTONE MAN

APPEARANCES AND GOALS — ALL TIME

	Total	League	Lg. Cup	F.A. Cup	Welsh Cup	ECWC
P. DWYER	376/36	303+1/29	16/1	17	33/5	6/1
J. BUCHANAN	247/61	186+14/49	11+2/4	9+1/2	18+1/6	4
R. HEALEY	202	164	10	7	17	4
A. CAMPBELL	195/2	162+1/2	13	4	10	5
K. PONTIN	139/4	110/4	9+2	4	11	2+1
S. GRAPES	123/3	92+7/2	8+1	3+1	9+1/1	0+1
R. BISHOP	113/31	84+9/26	6+2/3	4	7/2	0+1
G. STEVENS	87/29	66+10/26	6/1	0+2	3/1	0
R. THOMAS	84	70+3	2+1	3	5	0
J. LEWIS	57/2	45+3/2	3	3	3	0
B. RONSON	54/2	46/2	6	2	0	0
C. SULLIVAN	54/1	47+2/1	2	2	1	0
D. ROBERTS	38/2	33/2	4	1	0	0
L. JONES	35/1	31/1	4	0	0	0
P. GROTIER	18	14	4	0	0	0
T. MICALLEF	12/1	5+5/1	2	0	0	0
W. HUGHES	9/1	7+1/1	0+1	0	0	0
M. ELLIOTT	8	6+1	1	0	0	0
P. KITCHEN	5/2	2+1/1	2/1	0	0	0
G. HARRIS	4	4	0	0	0	0
P. DAVIES	1	0+1	0	0	0	0

SEASON 1980/81

	Total	League	Lg. Cup	F.A. Cup	Welsh Cup	ECWC
G. STEVENS	9/4	5/3	4/1	0	0	—
R. BISHOP	9/3	5/1	4/2	0	0	—
J. BUCHANAN	9/1	5/1	4	0	0	—
B. RONSON	9	5	4	0	0	—
K. PONTIN	9	5	4	0	0	—
S. GRAPES	9	5	4	0	0	—
P. GROTIER	9	5	4	0	0	—
P. DWYER	8/1	5/1	3	0	0	—
J. LEWIS	8	5	3	0	0	—
A. CAMPBELL	7	4+1	2	0	0	—
P. KITCHEN	5/2	2+1/1	2/1	0	0	—
R. THOMAS	4	3	0+1	0	0	—
L. JONES	2	0	2	0	0	—
T. MICALLEF	2	0	2	0	0	—
D. ROBERTS	2	0	2	0	0	—
W. HUGHES	1	0	0+1	0	0	—
C. SULLIVAN	0	0	0	0	0	—
M. ELLIOTT	0	0	0	0	0	—
R. HEALEY	0	0	0	0	0	—
G. HARRIS	0	0	0	0	0	—
P. DAVIES	0	0	0	0	0	—

+ Indicates the number of appearances as substitute
Figure after oblique indicates goals scored

BILLY RONSON reached his half century of Cardiff City first team appearances a fortnight ago at Oldham. What is more, he did it as team captain and the reigning 'Player of the Year' — two extra milestones in his career at Ninian Park.

"I think that both these honours reflect the fact that I've put my game together," says Billy who came from Blackpool with the reputation of being a player of fiery temperament. "I would not have gained either unless I was showing control."

"Certainly this first half century of games for City have provided my career with a sharp improvement of fortunes. Now I'm really looking forward to a good season."

Never at any stage of his development has the 23-year-old busy midfielder been entrusted with the team captaincy. "Now I've tasted it, I don't want to let it go. I thoroughly enjoy it. I hope that I get my share of games as captain right through the season . . . I'll be disappointed if I don't."

"As far as my outlook is concerned, leadership doesn't make much difference. I've always done my share of shouting and directing . . . I'm that kind of player by nature. What appeals most of all is the chance to have a say in the way we play."

"I've always had one firm conviction about the way that football should be played: plenty of movement, keeping the ball on the deck, looking for sharp one-twos plus using pace and skill to maximum effect. That's what all the best sides do."

"In those terms, I thought that is exactly what we achieved in most of the League Cup tie here against Chelsea and, in patches, during the 4-2 win over Orient. I believe, too, that this is what the crowd enjoy most."

"With Peter Kitchen now bringing his ability to the attack, we have the chance of more than one 'outlet ball'. Previously circumstances might have forced us to concentrate on the long, high ball. Now we have a fresh set of options."

Billy, hustling, bustling and fanatically keen, has a personal dream and at least one professional target for the season. "The dream is to win the Player of the Year award for the second time: the target — far more important — is to play my part in winning the Welsh Cup."

"That would bring the European Cup Winners Cup back to Ninian Park. Along with all the lads in the dressing room, I feel that it has been away too long."

THE SEASON'S FACTS

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

(Up to and including Saturday, 6th September, 1980)

HOME						AWAY					
P	W	D	L	F	A		W	D	L	F	A Pts.
5	2	0	0	3	0	Blackburn Rovers	1	2	0	5	4 8
5	2	1	0	6	4	Derby County	1	0	1	2	4 7
5	3	0	0	6	2	Notts County	0	1	1	1	5 7
5	1	0	1	5	2	West Ham United	1	2	0	2	1 6
5	2	1	0	6	1	Orient	0	1	1	3	5 6
5	3	0	0	5	0	Oldham Athletic	0	0	2	2	4 5
5	1	1	0	3	2	Swansea City	1	1	1	2	2 6
5	2	1	0	6	0	Bolton Wanderers	0	0	2	1	3 5
5	2	0	0	5	0	Sheffield Wednesday	0	1	2	0	4 5
5	2	0	0	6	1	Cambridge United	0	1	2	1	6 5
5	1	1	1	3	3	Luton Town	1	0	1	3	3 5
5	1	1	0	1	0	Grimsby Town	0	2	1	3	5 5
5	1	2	0	3	1	Preston North End	0	1	1	0	3 5
5	2	1	0	5	3	Newcastle United	0	0	2	0	6 5
5	1	1	0	4	0	Queens Park Rangers	0	1	2	2	4 4
5	1	0	1	5	4	Cardiff City	1	0	2	2	4 4
5	1	0	1	3	3	Wrexham	0	2	1	3	4 4
5	1	2	0	5	4	Shrewsbury Town	0	0	2	1	4 4
5	2	0	0	3	1	Watford	0	0	3	2	6 4
5	0	2	1	3	4	Chelsea	0	1	1	4	5 3
5	0	2	1	1	2	Bristol City	0	1	1	1	2 3
5	0	2	0	3	3	Bristol Rovers	0	1	2	0	6 3

Reserve Team Review

from Doug Livermore

After our opening Combination defeat against Bristol City, we improved sharply and impressively for away games at Fulham and Arsenal. We produced only one point from these fixtures — but so much was right about our performance.



There was the application, the attitude and the quality of football that I want — and expect — from young players. We thoroughly deserved our point at Fulham in a 0-0 duel and were very unlucky to go down by the only goal of the game at Highbury.

The second match was particularly valuable for our young players in terms of experience. Arsenal fielded a side packed with players of first team and international experience such as George Wood in goal plus Northern Ireland full backs Sammy Nelson and Pat Rice in front of him.

It was an extremely hard defence to crack but we came close to success on several occasions and no one can have been more pleased with his performance than Steve James.

Yet another of our new arrivals, goalkeeper Andrew Dibble, produced an outstanding display for the Welsh League side in a 1-1 draw at Barry. He was in the Welsh Schools side last season and, at 15, is not yet old enough to sign professional forms — but there is a tremendous future ahead for him.

We also took a Welsh League point from Newport County in a fine, entertaining 1-1 clash. As you would expect from the young professionals of two League clubs, both sides pushed the ball about with skill and purpose. Paul Giles scored our goal from the penalty spot.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION FIXTURES

Wed. Aug. 20	BRISTOL CITY	0-1
Mon. Sept. 1	Fulham	0-0
Sat. " 6	Arsenal	0-1
Wed. " 10	BRISTOL ROVERS	H
Wed. " 17	LEICESTER CITY	H
Sat. " 20	Swindon Town	A
Sat. " 27	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	H
Wed. Oct. 1	Reading	A
Sat. " 4	Plymouth Argyle	A
Wed. " 8	OXFORD UNITED	H
Sat. " 11	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H
Sat. " 18	Norwich City	A
Wed. " 22	Tottenham Hotspur	A
Sat. " 25	WEST HAM UNITED	H
Sat. Nov. 1	Southampton	A
Tues. " 4	Bristol City	A
Sat. " 8	CHELSEA	H
Sat. " 15	Leicester City	A
Sat. " 22	Luton Town	A
Sat. " 29	ORIENT	H

WELSH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Pontlottyn	4	4	0	0	8	2	8
Haverfordwest County	4	3	1	0	9	4	7
Maesteg Park	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Milford United	3	2	1	0	6	3	5
Ton Pentre	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Bridgend Town	4	2	0	2	7	5	4
Cardiff City	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Merthyr Tydfil	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Caerleon	4	2	0	2	4	5	4
Barry Town	4	1	1	2	6	4	3
Swansea City	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Pontllanfraith	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Llanelli	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Briton Ferry Athletic	4	1	0	3	2	7	2
Newport County	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
Ammanford Town	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Pembroke Boro'	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Cardiff Corinthians	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

...AND THE FIXTURES

LEAGUE AND CUP GAMES

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	ATTENDANCE	LGE. POS.	SCORERS
Sat. Aug. 9	Torquay United (LC1)	0-0	3,411		
Wed. " 13	TORQUAY UNITED (LC1)	2-1	3,149		Bishop, Stevens
Sat. " 16	BLACKBURN ROVERS	1-2	6,908		Stevens
Tues. " 19	Wrexham	1-0	7,772		Bishop
Sat. " 23	Oldham Athletic	0-2	5,690	19	
Wed. " 27	CHELSEA (LC2)	1-0	6,549	—	Bishop
Sat. " 30	ORIENT	4-2	5,649	11	Stevens 2, Dwyer, Buchanan
Wed. Sept. 3	Chelsea (LC2)	1-1	12,959	—	Kitchen
Sat. " 6	Newcastle United	1-2	15,804	16	Kitchen
Sat. " 13	BOLTON WANDERERS				
Sat. " 20	BRISTOL ROVERS				
Wed. " 24	Barnsley (LC3)				
Sat. " 27	Notts County				
Sat. Oct. 4	WATFORD				
Tues. " 7	West Ham United				
Sat. " 11	Sheffield Wednesday				
Fri. " 17	CAMBRIDGE UNITED				
Wed. " 22	QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS				
Sat. " 25	Shrewsbury Town				
Wed. " 29	League Cup 4				
Fri. " 31	CHELSEA				
Sat. Nov. 8	Preston North End				
Wed. " 12	WREXHAM				
Sat. " 15	Blackburn Rovers				
Sat. " 22	LUTON TOWN (1)				
Sat. " 29	Derby County				
Wed. Dec. 3	League Cup 5				
Sat. " 6	GRIMSBY TOWN				
Sat. " 13	Queen's Park Rangers (2)				
Fri. " 19	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY				
Fri. " 26	Bristol City				
Sat. " 27	SWANSEA CITY				
1981					
Sat. Jan. 3	F.A. Cup 3				
Sat. " 10	Luton Town				
Wed. " 14	League Cup SF				
Sat. " 17	Orient				
Sat. " 24	F.A. Cup 4				
Sat. " 31	OLDHAM ATHLETIC				
Sat. " 7	Bolton Wanderers				
Wed. " 11	League Cup SF				
Sat. " 14	NEWCASTLE UNITED (5)				
Fri. " 20	NOTTS COUNTY				
Sat. " 28	Bristol Rovers				
Sat. Mar. 7	Watford (6)				
Sat. " 14	WEST HAM UNITED (LCF)				
Sat. " 21	Cambridge United				
Sat. " 28	SHREWSBURY TOWN				
Sat. Apr. 4	Chelsea				
Sat. " 11	PRESTON NORTH END (SF)				
Sat. " 18	Swansea City				
Mon. " 20	BRISTOL CITY				
Sat. " 25	Grimsby Town				
Sat. May 2	DERBY COUNTY				
Sat. " 9	F.A. Cup Final				

CARDIFF CITY

BOLTON WANDERERS

(Blue shirts, Blue shorts, White socks)

(White shirts, Blue shorts, White socks)

Peter GROTIER	1	Dennis PEACOCK
Steve GRAPES	2	Dave CLEMENTS
John LEWIS	3	Dave BURKE
Alan CAMPBELL	4	Len CANTELLO
Keith PONTIN	5	Gerry McELHINNEY
Phil DWYER	6	Mike WALSH
Ray BISHOP	7	Alan GOWLING
Peter KITCHEN	8	Neil WHATMORE
Gary STEVENS	9	Mike CARTER
Billy RONSON	10	Brian KIDD
John BUCHANAN	11	Dave HOLAN
	12	

Referee:
M. J. BIDMEAD
(Chessington, Surrey)

Linesmen:
I. W. GUMBLETON
(Yellow flag)
R. G. MILFORD
(Red flag)

Today's Referee

MICHAEL BIDMEAD started refereeing in 1967 and progressed via the Surrey County League, Spartan League, Southern League and Football League line. In 1977/78, he lined an England v. Norway Youth international. He works as a project accountant to a firm of consulting engineers and is interested in golf and cricket.

RESULT

SCORERS

Here Next.....

Wed., 17th September: Combination	CITY v. LEICESTER CITY	2 p.m.
Sat., 20th September: Division 2	CITY v. BRISTOL ROVERS	3 p.m.
Sat., 27th September: Combination	CITY v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	2 p.m.